

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A jewelry rope chain, having non-elongated links interwoven together to form a double helix configuration, each link having a substantially uniform cross section, the largest transverse distance across said cross section having a dimension d_w , each link having an outer periphery and an inner periphery, and a gap extending at one location between the outer and inner peripheries, the inner periphery defining an interior space, the widest dimension of the interior space in a direction consistent with the direction of the gap having a dimension D , and wherein D is ~~less than~~ between two and three times d_w
2. (currently amended) A jewelry rope chain as in claim 1, wherein said rope chain is formed by pluralities of assemblies of said links in series, each assembly ~~comprising~~ consisting of two adjacent links, and an end link enveloping said two adjacent links throughout such chain, said two adjacent links having their respective gaps assembled in the same orientation and being fixedly attached to each other to form a group, ~~and said group being fixedly attached to said end link having a gap orientation about 180 degrees removed with respect to the gaps of the links of said group~~, and wherein the ratio of D to d_w is approximately 2:1.
3. (original) A jewelry rope chain as in claim 1, wherein said links are hollow links.
4. (original) A jewelry rope chain as in claim 1, wherein said links are solid links.
5. (original) A jewelry rope chain as in claim 1, wherein the dimension D is just over twice the dimension d_w .
6. (original) A jewelry rope claim as in claim 1, wherein said links are of annular configuration.

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7. (original) A jewelry rope chain as in claim 1, wherein said links have a round cross section.
8. (original) A jewelry rope chain as in claim 1, wherein each of three consecutive links are fixedly connected together to form a cluster, with each cluster not being fixed to the next cluster.
9. (original) A jewelry rope chain as in claim 1, wherein said adjacent links are fixedly held together by solder.
10. (original) A jewelry rope chain as in claim 1, wherein each said links comprise a seam along its inner periphery.
11. (canceled)
12. (original) A jewelry rope chain as in claim 1, or further having facets formed about said chain.
13. (currently amended) A method of forming a jewelry rope chain having non-elongated links interwoven together to form a double helix configuration, each link having a substantially uniform cross section, the largest transverse distance across said cross section having a dimension d_w , each link having an outer periphery and an inner periphery, the inner periphery defining an interior space, and a gap extending at one location between the outer and inner periphery, the widest dimension of the interior space in the direction consistent with the direction of the gap having a dimension D , where D is ~~less than three~~ approximately two times d_w , the method comprising the steps of forming a plurality of link assemblies in series, with each assembly ~~comprising~~ consisting of two adjacent links having their respective gaps assembled in the same orientation and an end link enveloping the other two adjacent links.

14. (original) The method as in claim 13 and further comprising the steps of:
arranging said two adjacent links with their respective gaps in the same orientation to form a group and fixedly attaching these two links together;
fixedly attaching to said group said end link having a gap orientation about 180° removed from the gaps of the links of said group, and
continuing said steps throughout the length of the claim.
15. (currently amended) The method as in claim 13, wherein the ratio of D to d_w is slightly greater than 2:1.
16. (original) The method as in claim 13, wherein said links are hollow links.
17. (original) The method as in claim 13, wherein said links are solid links.
18. (original) The method as in claim 13, wherein said fixing together is through a step of soldering.
19. (original) The method as in claim 13, wherein said links are of annular configuration.
20. (original) The method as in claim 13, wherein said links have a round cross section.
21. (original) The method as in claim 13 and further comprising the step of faceting said chain.